

PRAYER DURING THE VACANCY



Morning Prayer
Thursdays, 9am
St Helen's Church or on Zoom

Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/ymrfkfx9>

Updated January 2026

St Helen's + St Peter's · Wheathampstead
living God's love in our community



Wheathampstead PCC is a Registered Charity

sth-stp.org

Preparation

O God, make speed to save us.

All O Lord, make haste to help us.

Your love, O Lord, reaches to the heavens

All and your faithfulness to the clouds.

Psalm 36.5

The Word of God

Week One

Psalm 81

For the director of music. According to gittith. Of Asaph.

¹ Sing for joy to God our strength;

shout aloud to the God of Jacob!

² Begin the music, strike the timbrel,

play the melodious harp and lyre.

³ Sound the ram's horn at the New Moon,

and when the moon is full, on the day of our festival;

⁴ this is a decree for Israel,

an ordinance of the God of Jacob.

⁵ When God went out against Egypt,

he established it as a statute for Joseph.

I heard an unknown voice say:

⁶ "I removed the burden from their shoulders;

their hands were set free from the basket.

⁷ In your distress you called and I rescued you,

I answered you out of a thundercloud;

I tested you at the waters of Meribah.

⁸ Hear me, my people, and I will warn you—

if you would only listen to me, Israel!

⁹ You shall have no foreign god among you;

you shall not worship any god other than me.

¹⁰ I am the LORD your God,

who brought you up out of Egypt.

Open wide your mouth and I will fill it.

¹¹ “But my people would not listen to me;
Israel would not submit to me.

¹² So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts
to follow their own devices.

¹³ “If my people would only listen to me,
if Israel would only follow my ways,

¹⁴ how quickly I would subdue their enemies
and turn my hand against their foes!

¹⁵ Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him,
and their punishment would last forever.

¹⁶ But you would be fed with the finest of wheat;
with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.”

Week Two

Psalm 90

A prayer of Moses the man of God.

¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place
throughout all generations.

² Before the mountains were born
or you brought forth the whole world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

³ You turn people back to dust,
saying, “Return to dust, you mortals.”

⁴ A thousand years in your sight
are like a day that has just gone by,
or like a watch in the night.

⁵ Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—
they are like the new grass of the morning:

⁶ In the morning it springs up new,
but by evening it is dry and withered.

⁷ We are consumed by your anger
and terrified by your indignation.

- ⁸ You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.
- ⁹ All our days pass away under your wrath;
we finish our years with a moan.
- ¹⁰ Our days may come to seventy years,
or eighty, if our strength endures;
yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow,
for they quickly pass, and we fly away.
- ¹¹ If only we knew the power of your anger!
Your wrath is as great as the fear that is your due.
- ¹² Teach us to number our days,
that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
- ¹³ Relent, Lord! How long will it be?
Have compassion on your servants.
- ¹⁴ Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love,
that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.
- ¹⁵ Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
for as many years as we have seen trouble.
- ¹⁶ May your deeds be shown to your servants,
your splendor to their children.
- ¹⁷ May the favor^[a] of the Lord our God rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us—
yes, establish the work of our hands.

Week Three

Psalm 101

Of David. A psalm.

- ¹ I will sing of your love and justice;
to you, Lord, I will sing praise.
- ² I will be careful to lead a blameless life—
when will you come to me?
- I will conduct the affairs of my house
with a blameless heart.

³ I will not look with approval
on anything that is vile.
I hate what faithless people do;
I will have no part in it.
⁴ The perverse of heart shall be far from me;
I will have nothing to do with what is evil.
⁵ Whoever slanders their neighbor in secret,
I will put to silence;
whoever has haughty eyes and a proud heart,
I will not tolerate.
⁶ My eyes will be on the faithful in the land,
that they may dwell with me;
the one whose walk is blameless
will minister to me.
⁷ No one who practices deceit
will dwell in my house;
no one who speaks falsely
will stand in my presence.
⁸ Every morning I will put to silence
all the wicked in the land;
I will cut off every evildoer
from the city of the Lord.

Week Four

Psalm 107.1-16

¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.
² Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—
those he redeemed from the hand of the foe,
³ those he gathered from the lands,
from east and west, from north and south.^[a]
⁴ Some wandered in desert wastelands,
finding no way to a city where they could settle.
⁵ They were hungry and thirsty,
and their lives ebbed away.
⁶ Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble,

and he delivered them from their distress.

⁷ He led them by a straight way
to a city where they could settle.

⁸ Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for mankind,

⁹ for he satisfies the thirsty
and fills the hungry with good things.

¹⁰ Some sat in darkness, in utter darkness,
prisoners suffering in iron chains,

¹¹ because they rebelled against God's commands
and despised the plans of the Most High.

¹² So he subjected them to bitter labor;
they stumbled, and there was no one to help.

¹³ Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress.

¹⁴ He brought them out of darkness, the utter darkness,
and broke away their chains.

¹⁵ Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love
and his wonderful deeds for mankind,

¹⁶ for he breaks down gates of bronze
and cuts through bars of iron.

**All Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Short readings

Week One

If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted towards your needy neighbour. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbour in your land.'

Deuteronomy 15.7,8,10,11

Week Two

Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, 'Give them up', and to the south, 'Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth – everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

Isaiah 43.5-7

Week Three

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2.9,10

Week Four

As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth. I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they

may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

John 17.18-23

Response

Jesus said, I am the resurrection and the life.

All Those who believe in me will never die.

John 11.25,26

Vacancy Prayer Themes

- 1) Please pray for the unity of the church and its mission to serve the wider community. It is important that the church stays together during this time.
- 2) Please pray for support for the paid staff of the church, it's church wardens and PCC who have taken over the day to day running of the church. It is important that no one feels overwhelmed or overworked.
- 3) Please pray that people will continue to take up roles and responsibilities, that there will be more volunteers, and the workload will be shared out in larger groups.
- 4) Please pray for wisdom and direction for the leadership of the church until our new Rector Andy joins us.
- 5) Please pray that the church remains forward focusing, that current projects and outreach receive support especially for families and children.
- 6) We thank God for those who have led our Sunday morning worship with such skill and generosity; we pray for them and for those who hold meetings. May God bless us with quality and continuity so that the church feels fed and supported.

- 7) Please pray for the Pastoral care in the church. That people feel connected and cared for. Pray for the building of new relationships and friendships at this time.
- 8) Please pray for the Welcome team and any new people or visitors to the church. We want people to feel welcomed and to come back.
- 9) Please pray for regular attendance and a fresh commitment from the congregation. If people are unwell or away for a long time we pray for their health and speedy recovery.
- 10) Please pray that we would have wisdom when reviewing the program of activities and commitments the church has. What is feasible and wise to do in this period.
- 11) Please pray for good communication. People need to feel both informed and listened to. This includes the wider community not just the church.
- 12) Please pray for how people are feeling, their emotions at this time of change. We want the soul of the church to stay healthy.
- 13) Please pray for our relationship with the Diocese and Deanery. We thank God for their support during this time.
- 14) Please pray for the wider community of Wheathampstead especially St Helen's school that our relationship with them continues to grow and flourish.
- 15) Please pray for our new Rector. Andy. For wisdom for him as he begins planning for his move to Wheathampstead. That he will develop a clear vision for his ministry and mission.
- 16) Please pray that God continues to bless not only our church and it's new Rector, Andy, but Richard and Claire in their new ministry.

CPAS Vacancy Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the ministry of Richard and Claire, and we pray your presence and blessing upon them in St Mary's, Watford.

We ask now that you will help us to continue to share responsibility, grow in faith, love one another, care for those in need, reach out to others, and welcome newcomers.

Lord Jesus, guard and grow our churches as we serve you together as we await the arrival of our new Rector.

We thank you for guiding us in the finding of Andy Jefferson to be our new Rector and

we ask that together we may discover your way for the future and see your kingdom grow.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Conclusion

May Christ dwell in our hearts by faith.

All **Amen.**

